

THE NECESSITY FOR GOOD ROADS.

In a recent report to the County Council of the County of Perth, Mr. GEO. L. GRIFFITH has the following to say anent county road systems :

"To the many the realization of the plan for a system of county roads does not perhaps mean very much, but to the little band of patriotic and unselfish workers who struggled unceasingly for several years it opens up a new sight of possibilities that may now be worked out in some systematic and comprehensive form.

"Good roads will benefit the farmer, the merchant and the workman, and will do more towards the advancement of civilization than any one improvement that is in the power of man to accomplish. In fact every part of the country still without railway communication should be made accessible by a system of good roads. It is a chief rule that the suitable improvements of highways within reasonable limitations will nearly double the value of the land adjacent to it.

"Every effort of the engineer will be particularly directed to disseminating information upon the costliness of bad roads, the economic benefits to all classes of the community of good roads, and the best methods and materials for road construction.

"The average distance farm products are hauled in the United States is about twelve miles, and the cost of transporting farm products over good hard stone roads was found to be about 8 cents per ton per mile of travel, while over bad dirt roads the cost was found to be 25 cents.

"Good roads mean an increase of values to the owners of the lands ; they mean a more rapid development of the country, more contentment amongst the people residing in the country ; they mean, in fact, an advanced step in our civilization, our progress and our prosperity."

He also makes the following interesting comments on the construction and maintenance of culverts :

"In my tour of inspection I found many broken culverts. The breaks in culvert pipes are caused chiefly by the difficulties encountered in ensuring an unyielding support for the pipe, and by the inelasticity of the joints. In dry sand, loam or clay, the bottom of the trench may be shaped to the pipe, but in rock, gravel or wet ditches this cannot be done, and it is practically impossible to back-fill properly with the material taken from the trench under and around the pipe of the largest sizes where the natural foundation has been disturbed.

"Ruptured pipe can only be avoided by filling the space under the pipe and up to one-third of its height, or by filling up to the top of the pipe with fine sand or earth, flooding it to enable the sand to flow entirely under and around the pipe, thus ensuring a firm foundation."

MUNICIPAL ADVERTISING PROFITABLE

Columns have been printed of late about enterprising cities and towns whose public spirited men and business merchants have raised funds for advertising to extend their manufacturing industries and promote growth of population, but very little has been said as to the results. This is because the co-operative municipal advertising plan is a comparatively recent development, and in many cases has not had time for a fair trial.

An interesting report has lately been published by Winnipeg papers on the work of the Winnipeg Industrial Bureau. Eighteen months ago this organization, whose executive is composed of representatives drawn from ten organized business bodies of the city located 22 new manufacturing industries. The population increased at the rate of 60 actual new residents every day, or in other words the population in 1905 was 79,975, and to-day is 111,717, and the bank deposits increased in the past year

over 66 per cent. The Winnipeg experiment is a marked success, and to a great extent demonstrates that if natural advantages exist within a municipality, judicious advertising properly placed is a good investment, and thus convinced, the Industrial Bureau is looking to still greater things as shown in the report referred to. Estimates for the coming year have been struck as follows :

Printing.....	\$1,800 00
Postage.....	500 00
Legal.....	200 00
Entertainment and transportation	400 00
Office maintenance and supplies.....	1,275 00
Salaries.....	4,200 00
Advertising :	
Newspapers.....	5,000 00
Magazines.....	5,000 00
Trade papers.....	3,000 00
Special advertising	1,825 00
Total estimates, June 30.....\$25,000 00	

Though the idea of forming an Industrial Bureau in Winnipeg, when first mooted, was conceded by nearly all to be a good and profitable factor in advertising the city, few indeed realized what a public benefit such a plan was destined to prove.—*Berlin News-Record*.

RESULTS OF MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP IN FORT WILLIAM

To all those interested in the question of municipal ownership, the following facts will be of interest. Commissioner WM. MCCOLL, of Fort William, while in Galt the other day, called to pay his respects to *The Reporter*, and during an interview volunteered the following information :

Fort Williams owns and operates its own water, light, and telephone systems, and what is more, makes it a paying proposition, although these necessities are supplied to the public at a much lower rate than could be obtained from any private company.

There are 1200 subscribers on the telephone at \$12 per annum. Central energy is the system used, and the service is all that could be desired, while the price is such as to enable those in only moderate circumstances to enjoy the advantages of a 'phone. This department last year made a net profit of \$2,000.

Half a million dollars is to be spent in installing a new waterworks system. The water will be got from Loch Lomond, a lake 7 x 1½ miles in extent and 27 miles away from the city. In order to conduct the pipe line by the shortest route it will be necessary to bore a tunnel through a mountain, a mile long. This will give the city the best supply of water in Western Ontario.

The power for lighting purposes is derived from the Kakabeca Falls, twenty miles distant, where 700 horsepower is generated. The cost for domestic lighting is 35 cents per candle power per annum. The cost to the town for street lighting is \$300 per year. In addition to the power for lighting, the town can sell up to 5-horse power to any one customer for manufacturing purposes. Above this amount application has to be made to the company at the Falls. In speaking of the lighting scheme, Mr. MCCOLL described it as a perfect success.

The new C. P. R. elevators and the Canada Iron Foundry are among the largest users of power from the Falls.

The population of Fort William is about 13,000, and is growing at the rate of 2,000 a year. One of the hardest problems the city has to face is that of housing. It is a most difficult thing to rent a house in the city, but the uilding trade is very active and relief is hoped for before many months.—*Galt Reporter*.